

The Date of Publication of GOULD'S "Descriptions of Shells from the Gulf of California"

BY

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AN ARTICLE IMPORTANT to West American malacology by GOULD appeared in the Boston Journal of Natural History in 1853. There has been question about the date of publication of the 32 species described in this article, 18 of the 50 species discussed having been validated in GOULD, 1851.

This paper appeared in the third issue of the Journal (article no. XXIV: pp. 374 - 408; plts. 14 - 16). Internal evidence (an 1853 date on the issue cover; October 1853 signature dates at the bottoms of pp. 377, 385, 393, and 401; and a January 17, 1853, writing date at the end of the previous article) require that it be dated October 1853.

Copies in the United States National Museum and the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia indicate that this work was also issued separately. The printing was from the original article, but the title was reset without the article number, and the pages were renumbered. There are no signature indications with dates at the bottom of pages; there is no indication of publisher or publication date.

First mention of GOULD'S paper was by CARPENTER (1857: 225 - 228), who evidently had only the separate and assumed that it had been published in 1855. GOULD (1862), reviewing the article in his "Otia," indicated that it had been published in April 1852. This date may have been taken in error from a previous signature date in the Journal and was probably responsible for the "April 1852" note on the National Museum copy and for DALL'S (1909:204) comment, "also issued in advance of

the Journal, separately, April, 1852." However, the fact that the separate is in the Journal type together with the fact that the previous Journal article was only completed in January 1853 indicate an 1852 date is unlikely.

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LITERATURE CITED

CARPENTER, PHILIP PEARSALL

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GOULD, AUGUSTUS ADDISON

1851. [Descriptions of a number of California shells, collected by Maj. William Rich and Lieut. Thomas P. Green, United States Navy, ...] Boston Soc. Nat. Hist., Proc. 4 (6): 87 - 93 (November 1851)
1853. Descriptions of shells from the Gulf of California and the Pacific coasts of Mexico and California. Boston Journ. Nat. Hist. 6 (3): 374 - 408; plts. 14 - 16 (October 1853) [also issued separately: 35 pp.; plts. 14 - 16]
1862. Otia Conchologia: descriptions of shells and mollusks from 1839 to 1862. Boston (Gould & Lincoln) [iv] + 256 pp.